



THE HAWK'S EYE

The Official Newspaper of Glastonbury High School

Volume XIV Issue 3 January 2010



News Briefs

Soccer goalie **Adam LaPlaca** ('10) was named National Scholar Athlete of the Year.

The **Clear Water Initiative**, a fundraiser held from Tuesday December 15 to December 22 raised \$1800 from hundreds of GHS students to help give clean water to poverty-stricken villages in Africa.

Glastonbury Public Schools got their first **snow day** on Wednesday, December 9. Although many students didn't feel the weather was bad enough to cancel school, you didn't hear them complaining.

The fall **Essence Awards** were held on Wednesday, December 16. Honorees included Mr. Markowicz of the math department, Mrs. Passero in Career Guidance, senior Ann Alampi, and junior Laura Cryon.

On Tuesday, December 15, sophomores participated in the **Names Can Really Hurt Us** assembly. This is the third year GHS has participated in the program.

French teacher **Touissaint Olivetti** was given the "Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts 2009 Local Hero Award." This award was then given the award for "Longest Name for an Award."

The Welles-Turner Library's **Teen Advisory Board** is looking for new members to help select purchases for movies, music, and books, as well as plan events for the teen department, such as Game Day and the annual Teen Film Festival. If you are interested, contact Miriam Neiman, head of teen services at Welles-Turner.

Peer Education held an **alumni party** on Monday, December 28, attended by many members, past and present.

Math teacher Raymond Laramie is trying to start an **after-school archery program** at GHS, and is looking for potential participants. If you are, contact Mr. Laramie in the math department.

The GHS history department is the department with the most teachers named John. Seriously.

If you want to **get involved** with the school newspaper, contact any of the advisors: Mr. Poblocki or Ms. Vemuri of the English department, or Mr. Thorn of the Technology Education department. Meetings will be announced and posted in the bulletin.

Students feel pinch of struggling economy

Article by Emily Gauthier

Students at GHS are feeling the heat of economic troubles as the year progresses and budget cuts start to affect them.

The economy has caused budget precautions which affect the many organizations within GHS. The students within these organizations are the ones really suffering, along with all of their classmates.

In the Board of Educations budget for this school year, there were ten departments whose improvements weren't funded. They include everything from Basic Education and Staff Development to System Wide Support and Technology. The improvements not funded would have cost \$14,690,000.

Many people are beginning to ask: "At what cost? And where will these precautions end?"

Many people are beginning to ask: "At what cost? And where will these precautions end?" Town Business Manager Sharon Smith commented on the effects of this economy in the future, "The Board of Education keeps cuts as far away from the classroom as possible."

But will the cuts spare the students? GHS Principal Matt Dunbar says that, "next year we're expecting an increase of about 90 students and we're going to need additional staffing to help meet that need." That sounds like even though cuts aren't being applied near the classroom, precautions are. And those precautions are affecting students.

Students involved in the many clubs and sports at GHS are also starting to recognize how the budget precautions this year will be affecting them. Both groups have suffered from the cuts in equipment and funding allowances for their activities at GHS. Academics are also in jeopardy as larger graduating classes enter the school and new staff positions aren't created,

class sizes are getting larger and larger.

For student athletes, the budget precautions have denied them new uniforms. The Board of Education turned down the proposed \$45,000 budget for new uniforms for the football, wrestling, boys'

By The Numbers

The national debt is estimated at \$12,174, 657,690.
That translates into \$49,460 per U.S. citizen, or
\$111,621 per taxpayer. (Accurate as of 01/05/10.)

cross country and girls' basketball teams. Director of Athletics Trish Witkin explained saying that "a large number of teams were up on the five year rotation for new uniforms and they just got pushed off for more important things."

Those more important things include anything that the director deems a safety item. "Things like mouth guards, chest protectors, padding, and shin guards: they are items that are crucial to the safety of the players and won't be cut." At least the students won't get injured because of these cutbacks.

Within the club community of GHS, it's another story. Just recently, a great club opportunity had to be turned down by Principal Dunbar due to budget restrictions.

Nikki Phillips and Brianna Petruccio, both juniors at GHS, were interested in starting a Green Team this past year and approached Dunbar about it. They say they decided to do it "because in Environmental

club we don't do much outside the school and we wanted to do something in the community."

The club would have gone around cleaning up parts of Glastonbury such as Tryon Street, the Riverfront and the High School Parking Lots, all of which are "pretty disgusting, and could use some help" according to Petruccio.

When they proposed it to Dunbar he thought it was a great idea. But he was uncertain of next year's budget and didn't know if after a one year pilot run we would be able to fund it. So, the girls went back to him this year and were told a final no. Dunbar commented that "Unfortunately, I haven't been adding any clubs because of the economic uncertainty."

These budget precautions are starting to affect GHS's commitment to excellence in its clubs and class sizes. Hopefully the economy will improve before they have to go any further.

First-ever Battle of the Bands rocks the school

Article by Amy Gittleman

Additional reporting by Jesse Rifkin

The lights went down, the guitars were cranked up to maximum volume, and it was officially on. Glastonbury High School hosted the first Battle of the Bands on Tuesday, December 22nd, 2009, at 6pm in the GHS auditorium.

Act I kicked off with the band Big Whales Little Tails, with seniors Jason Filloramo, Allen Hansrisuk, Gene Langan, and Tucker Lusa, playing "What I Got" by Sublime and "I Want You Back" by the Jackson 5. Next up was Hats Jackson, a duo of juniors Brian Brewer and Eli Mann, who played "The Issues" by Flight of the Conchords, and then songs by Dispatch and Jason Mraz. Finishing up Act I was To Say The Least, with Joel Annibalini, Brian Bander, and Brandon Marino, a self-billed "punk and alternative" band.

After intermission, Act II came back with Radachchia, with Phil McInerney, Emmet Ravis, Charlie Babcock, and Sam Lawes, who surprised everybody by playing "Build Me Up Buttercup" by The Foundations. Next up was Epic, a group of four freshmen, including Kashish Hora, Paul Klaus, and Eli Ward. Not only did they play their own original songs, but they were backed up by Jonathan Joo on the electric violin. After that came Nothing Against My Will, a duo of seniors Randy Martins and Dan Kanter. They were unique in being the only act of the show without a drummer, as Martins played piano and Kanter

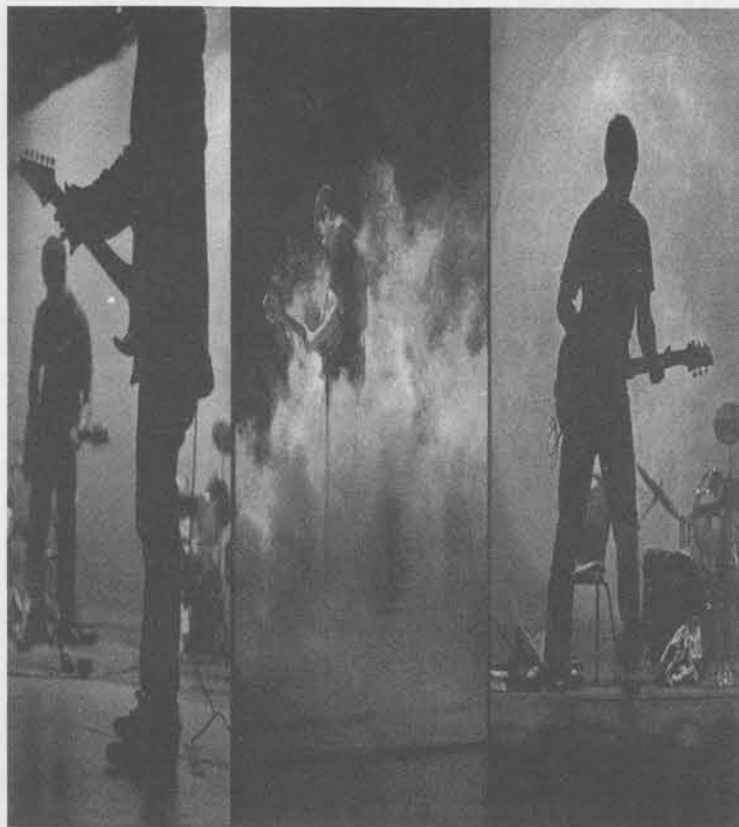


Photo courtesy of Jenna Lederman

A guitar player takes a solo at the first-ever Battle of the Bands.

played guitar, while they both sang. Wrapping up the show was Give Me Tomorrow, with Ben Abrahams, Eric Bolt, Dylan Panke, and Brad Schipke. They were the only act without vocals, as both of their two songs were solely instrumental.

Linda Napoletano of the English department of the had been proposing the idea of Battle of the Bands to Principal Matthew Dunbar for years, but every time the

administration said no because of a concern about alcohol, drugs, and college kids sneaking in. In order to keep the Battle of the Bands a safe environment, the only people allowed to attend were current GHS students who displayed their school ID at the door, any relatives of a student currently attending GHS, and all GHS teachers.

Mrs. Napoletano's Lighting and Design class was assigned to do a

project the whole class could get involved in. Usually, they do the lighting for the talent show, since the class was during the second semester, when the talent show is held. This year the class is held in the first semester, so Napoletano gave the class options for a project, and the class picked a Battle of the Bands.

What makes this different is that half the money raised will go towards the class of 2012 for expenses such as the prom and ball. The sophomore class got involved because Napoletano, being an advisor for the sophomore class, brought this idea of a Battle of the Bands to a Class Council meeting so that the sophomore class might be able to get some of the money raised.

Auditions were held November 16 and 17. Requirements for the competition were the band had to have at least two people, half of the band members had to be current students at GHS, and they had to be able to make decent music. Not every band had to have an instrument, but it worked out that all of them did.

All auditions were taped and brought back to students of the Lighting and Design class to watch and judge. The class made a cut because that particular band was not able to produce reasonable sounding music; all others were approved bringing it to a total of seven bands.

Brian Brewer '11, member of Hats Jackson and in charge of publicity, created a Facebook group

Continued on page 7, 'Battle'

As Schools Match Wits: Then and Now

By Jesse Rifkin
Staff Writer

The high school television game show 'As Schools Match Wits' has aired since 1961. GHS has a competing team this year, so it logically follows that the previous team would have been last year. It was actually 1986.

The four player GHS team currently consists of Ian Hosking, Tomas Massari, Alex Cole, and Jesse Rifkin. In 1986, team members included Howie Brienan, a current GHS science teacher, and Craig Piskura, a current GHS English teacher.

Coaching this year is Lawrence Rifkin, a parent volunteer. Back then, the coach was Christopher Connelly, who was and still is a GHS English teacher. Incidentally, Mr. Connelly himself competed on the show, though not for Glastonbury, in 1968.

The current and past teams stood strong chances at winning GHS its first As Schools Match Wits Championship. However, the method of advancing to the playoffs differs each year. Now, after all forty-eight teams compete in the regular season, the eight highest scoring teams go on. Back then, all teams with three regular-season wins made it. Because one needed to win more games to advance back then, seasons lasted longer, sometimes longer than a school year itself.

The current show host is Chris Rohmann, but in 1986 it was Phil Shepardson. All of the team members recalled not liking Shepardson at all, and Mr. Connelly went so far as to call him "an egotistical maniac." Combining that dislike with the longer season created a recipe for disaster.

This year, the paper cannot at press time reveal full results because not all episodes have aired. What The Hawk's Eye can reveal is the 2007-2008 team's opening victory against Pittsfield High from Massachusetts, 215-100, putting them in first place at the time of the episode's taping. In 1986, GHS also won the initial match, but it was one of the last ones scheduled, meaning that the second match, and possibly third, would take place the following school year. But, the four team members were seniors who would graduate before their next match could tape. The continuation of the team's success would be determined by four entirely new people the next year, who counted as the same team.

To continue the side-by-side comparison, a few minutes after the 2007 match taped, the team discussed their performance with Pittsfield. Minutes after the 1986 match, the Glastonbury team ripped a large photo of Phil Shepardson off the television studio's wall.

The day after the 2007 match, the team told some family and friends about the results of the previous day and began preparing for their potential next match.

The day after the 1986 match, the four seniors brought the photo into CI, held it up, and sarcastically calling Shepardson "An honorary member of the Class of 1987." That morning, Mr. Connelly received "an angry phone call" from the people at WWLP, the Springfield Massachusetts affiliate of NBC, which had broadcast the show until 2006, when WGBY, the Springfield affiliate of PBS, took over. Connelly, who had known nothing about the 1986 team's actions, required all the seniors to drive back to the studio. Dr. Brienan said the weather was "near blizzard-like conditions" as they drove an hour to Agawam to return the photo.

According to Dr. Brienan, Glastonbury High was only banned from the show for the rest of the season, but nobody revived the team in subsequent years. According to Mr. Connelly, they were banned for the rest of Phil Shepardson's tenure as host, which would last until 1991. Whether our school was officially banned for one or five years, a team did not exist for 21 years. After Mr. Connelly learned that the team had restarted, he stated: "I am not doing that again."

The Glastonbury High School's winning match against Pittsfield High can be streamed for free online at: <http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wgby/jukebox?action=viewPodcast&podcastId=10523> or by Googling 'As Schools Match Wits Glastonbury.'

Students Rally Around Message of Peace

By Jocie Kluger
Managing Editor

The hum of jovial chatter and the scent of baking bread fill the room. By a window that reveals the first flutters of snow, a dozen friends draw together two tables. They sit side-by-side, sip tea, and begin another meeting of Greater Glastonbury for Peace and Justice at Panera's Bakery. The GGPJ mission statement reads, "We strive to end this business of war, achieve human rights and healthcare for all, promote fair trade, defend our Constitutional rights, impeach members of the current Administration, save the environment, combat racism, stop torture, and end all forms of hatred, anger and ill will."

Since its formation in December, GGPJ has raised its profile in town. On Saturday, January 19, the group walked down Main Street with and hosted a potluck dinner for three Japanese monks participating in the Annual Walk for a New Spring. The monks said they were walking from Boston to DC to "renounce nuclear weapons and war and instill general compassion for humanity." On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day the anti-war group manned a cookie-decorating table called "Pieces of Peace" at the Smith Middle School celebration that featured speaker James Tillman, the Connecticut resident who had been falsely accused of raping a woman eighteen years ago.

In addition to Sunday peace vigils on the corner of Hebron and Main from noon until one o'clock, GGPJ has begun participating in the National Iraq Moratorium project. As part of the campaign, GGPJ members hold a vigil at the corner of Main and Griswold from 3 o'clock until sunset on the third Friday of every month. Vigil attendants hold signs that communicate messages such as, "Give peace a chance," "Make schools- not war," and "Stop the war machine."

For the February 15 Iraq Moratorium, the organization displayed signs that reflected the daily cost of the war for the nation and the annual cost for the town of Glastonbury. Their signs described domestic programs which would benefit from money currently being spent on the war. They used data from the National Priorities Project, a 501 (c)(3) research organization, to estimate that the proposed Iraq War spending for fiscal year 2008 will cost Glastonbury taxpayers

\$53.1 million, which "could finance health care for 18,066 people; 65,612 homes with renewable electricity; 741 music and arts teachers; or 6,717 scholarships for university students." After every vigil, participants reflect on the success of the event while sipping coffee and tea at Bruegger's Bagel Bakery.

Members of GGPJ also attend Town Council meetings, where they urge Glastonbury to join the "thousands of

Without these efforts, the freedoms we have come to take for granted can quickly vanish."

communities across the country who have passed resolutions to bring the troops home now." Advocates of the Cities for Peace Campaign emphasize the human cost of war, which totals "almost 4,000 US soldiers and an estimated 1,163,944 Iraqi deaths," and the belief that the "American presence escalates violence in Iraq, which may create a civil war." They further underscore the statistic that "65% of Iraqis approve of killing Americans and want their country unoccupied," as well as highlighting other reasons of why they believe the town of Glastonbury should pass the resolution. While presenting their idea to the Town Council, GGPJ references the town's mission statement, which includes aspirations of the "highest levels of equality," and practices of "fiscal responsibility." The peace group feels that the Iraq War does not meet these goals.

GGPJ hopes to host a forum in conjunction with Connecticut Opposes the War (COW), West Hartford Citizens for Peace (WHCPJ), and the Connecticut Coalition for Peace and Justice (CCPJ). At a public forum in West Hartford in early February, members of GGPJ invited US Representative John Larson to attend a public forum at the Glastonbury Community Center to address what he called issues of the "constitution, civil rights, and impeachment." The group is also considering showing the anti-

war films Why We Fight or On the Beach at a Glastonbury Movie Night. Currently, they plan a protest outside the office of US Senator Joseph Lieberman, who supports the war in Iraq. Additionally, members of GGPJ are involved in the planning process of a large student anti-war event that will take place in Washington, D.C. during March 13 through March 16.

When asked whether peace group activities are worth the effort, GGPJ

member and local flute teacher Susan Allen responded, "Without these efforts, the freedoms we have come to take for granted can quickly vanish." John Wentland answered the question by referring to a quotation from peace activist Margaret Meade: "Never doubt that the efforts of a few dedicated individuals can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that has!" Mary Mercier, a retired teacher from Naubuc School, explained, "Since I've retired from teaching first graders, I have been looking for other opportunities to continue to do that 'little bit extra' to make a person feel he or she is making a positive change for people in their community. Helping to launch Greater Glastonbury for Peace and Justice is one of the ways I am able to do this."

All members of the group emphasized their excitement to see young people joining the group. Wentland said that, "Having opposed US involvement in war since the 1970s, seeing young people demonstrating their opposition to war encourages me. Their involvement shows that students recognize the importance of working to create a world of the future they want rather than the world my generation makes for them."

Mercier said, "I am hoping that my former M & Ms (and they will know who they are) will come and join us at the corner of Main and Griswold for the Iraq moratorium on the third Friday of every month. They can release all of that pent up energy they showed at 6 years old and also show what they've learned about peace and justice. This will be a 'hands-on' activity station!"

Elaborating in her predictions for the Moratorium vigils, Mercier added, "My students were all so wonderfully verbal and personable that I am sure each one has made a gaggle of friends who would like to come along too. Imagine! A hundred GHS students demonstrating for peace and justice! Conservative, upper middle class Glastonbury might just take notice."

The group can be reached for questions and comments at GGPJ@gmail.com.

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GHS winter teams look promising

Article by Alex Cave

Boys Basketball:

Coach Jim Vaughan leads his team back this season after a second round exit and a 14-6 record last season. The team lost 10 seniors from last season's incredibly experienced squad and only Zach Hummel and Nico Donato return from last season's varsity squad. Vaughan is still optimistic, however. "Our returners have a good summer and fall and I think we'll surprise teams this year," says Vaughan. The team expects Angelo Lopez, Chris DuVerger, Jake Duden, and Jack Sellow to make big contributions at the varsity level and is looking to finish high in the CCC Division 1 Conference and another run in the state tournament.

Boys Swimming & Diving:

After finishing fourth at the Class LL meet last season, Coach Suzanne Hoyt's boys swimming and diving team will look for another solid season this year. The team returns seniors Marc Chale, Zack Zerio, Ryan McNamara, Alex Garneau, and Nick Oliveri from last year's squad. While the team did lose a great deal of talent, the swimmers and divers are quite optimistic about their potential to improve this season.

Ski Racing:

Led by Coach Diane Biondello, the boys and girls Ski Racing team looks strong once again. Co-captains Eric Brandolini (All-State Honorable Mention) and Lauren Pierce (All-State), as well as Caroline Kimball (All-State) return to provide some steady leadership for this relatively young team. "We have a great group of kids this year who have a lot of enthusiasm about the sport and if they keep up the effort shown in pre-season training, then it is going to be a good year," says Brandolini. The team is also expecting solid contributions from Griffin Ingenito, Sam Bosco, and Mackenzie Ingenito.

Ice Hockey:

In the 2007-2008 season, the GHS Hockey team lost in the state semifinals. Last year, it lost to Hamden in the state finals. Could this be the year? Coach Ken Barse's team looks incredibly strong once again and is ready for another run at the coveted Division I championship. Led by Alex and Adam



Courtesy Jessica Searl

The GHS Wrestling team prepares for the winter season.

Zlatkus, Chris Radochia, Colin Viray, Sam Scannell, Zack Roy, Alex Robinson, and Sean Carfi, all backed by standout junior goalie Chris Hemhauser, the team is balanced and talented in all facets of the game. The team is exuding an extraordi-

nary amount of confidence going into the season as well. "I can tell you that our older, returning players will not accept defeat and our goal for this season is of course a State Championship... We have to take the season day by day and not overlook any team because hockey is a truly a sport where any team can play with any other team on any given day. This season is sure to be eventful and everyone on the team is excited so we'll see how it all plays out," says Hemhauser. The team has had an excellent start to the season, beating Hamden (the team that beat them in last season's state finals) in their final preseason scrimmage.

Girls Basketball:

Led by Coach Brian Fleming, the girls basketball team will look to improve on last season's second-round exit. This year's team is relatively young (there are no seniors), but very dangerous, too. Junior Kaley Watras will run the show from the point guard position, and juniors Brenna Alexandre, Cara Manfredi, and Allison Goyette provide a steady dose of perimeter shooting. Juniors Catherine Pinone, Sam Branning, and Sarah Bees are expected to hold down the fort in the post and Laura Still will provide some versatility. All in all, the Tomahawks, while young, are a force to be reckoned with this season.

Wrestling:

This year's wrestling squad looks extremely strong once again. Led by head coach Rob Levesque, the team has reloaded and is ready for another strong run this year after last season's solid finish in the Class LL meet (8th of 27). The team is expecting huge contributions this year from Tyler Keane, who had a great season last year, including a second place finish in the 103 lb. weight class at the Class LL meet.

Indoor Track:

The tradition of indoor track dominance by GHS will likely continue this year, as both the girls and boys teams are strong in all facets of the sport. From pole vaulting to sprints to relays, the two teams are experienced and talented across the board. Coaches Brian Collins (girls) and Tracey Hollenbaugh (boys) are expecting solid finishes this year in the Class LL meet and State Open. Last year, the teams both finished third in LL and 14th (girls) and 12th (boys) in the State Open, results that they will look to improve upon this season.

Gymnastics:

Coach Leslie McInerney leads the GHS gymnastics team into the upcoming season. The team has lost some senior talent from last year, notably Sarah Kwok, who made a huge contribution at last year's Class L meet, but they are balanced and ready to go once again this season. The team is led by captains Domi Popescu (Sr.), Lauren Morande (Jr.) and Jess Smith (Jr.).



Courtesy Jessica Searl

The GHS Boys Basketball team works on its rebounding at practice.

GHS sports records and rankings (accurate as of January 5)

- Boys' basketball: 3-1 (ranked 17 of 40)
- Ice hockey: 2-1 (ranked 17 of 20)
- Girls' basketball: 5-0 (ranked 3 of 37)

Are you interested in joining the school newspaper? Anybody is welcome to join. Meetings will be announced and posted in the bulletin.

GHS STAFF WHO LOOK LIKE CELEBRITIES

Compiled and edited by Jesse Rifkin



James Boisoneau, History / Bender from "The Breakfast Club"



Jason Kitchens, Phys Ed / Any of the five guys from NSync



Matthew Dunbar, Principal / Russian dictator Vladimir Putin



Timothy Sanderson, English / Frodo Baggins from "Lord of the Rings"



Thomas Neagle, Vice-Principal / Alec Baldwin



Marc Sumberg, Science / Alex Trebek

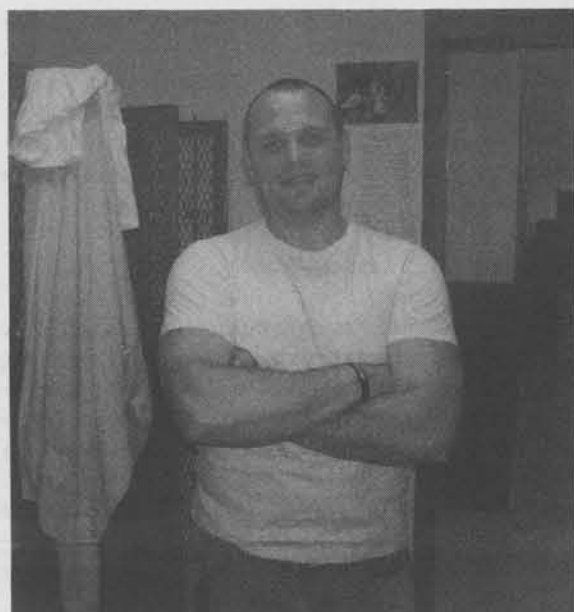




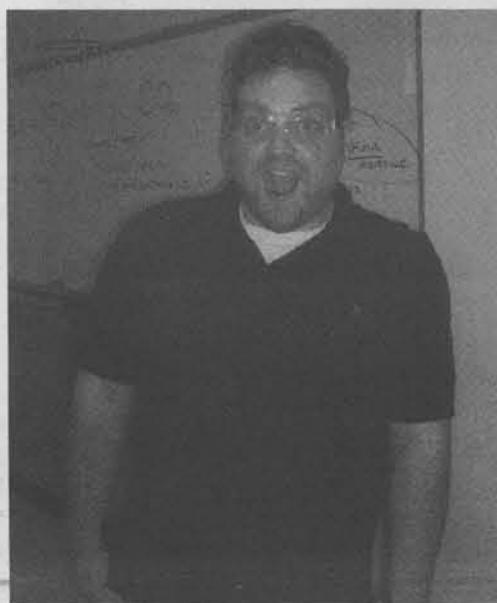
Harry Dammers, Science / Sigmund Freud



Robert Bernard, History / Jimmy Neutron

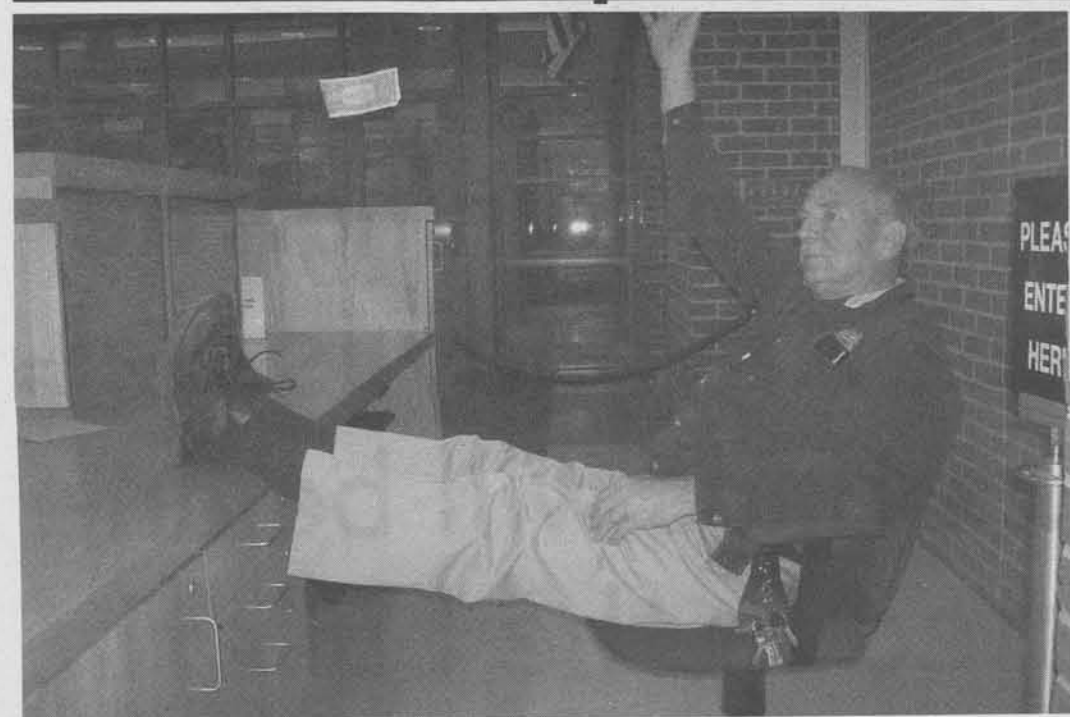


John Bolduc, Phys Ed / Mr. Clean



George Householder, Science / Seth Rogen

Can you think of any other teachers who look like celebrities? If you can, email in any suggestions to hawkseye.ghs@gmail.com. We could publish another round of this feature in a future issue.



Joe Luzietti, Security Guard / Mr. Monopoly



Her dream came true

Article by Jessica Rihm

How many times have you complained about going to school? How many times have you whined about getting up early to catch the bus and spend the day at Glastonbury High? The kids in Kamathudugu, Koinadugu, Sierra Leone can't say that. About a hundred of them visit an open sided hut to see their one teacher; another 150 kids can't even do that. But many people want this to change. While filming a documentary in Sierra Leone, actor Tiffany Persons saw the Kamathudugu's condition and vowed to help. Back in the U.S., she created *Shine on Sierra Leone*, an organization dedicated to bettering the life of the children in Sierra Leone. Her project has already built a school in the Kono District, as well as a library with a donation from Kanye

West.

During the civil war in Sierra Leone, Adama's village was attacked and burned. She was shot and stabbed before being rescued and evacuated to Guinea. In 2001, Adama and her family, including four of her own children and seven orphans, moved to Hartford, CT as refugees. One of Adama's sons visited their village last April and was distraught to see that the school was still a lean-to open to wind and rain, creating no dry place to store books and school supplies.

Adama's Dream is a project working with *Shine on Sierra Leone* to build a proper school in Kamathudugu. The school will be a five to six room building for 250 elementary students. It will be made with sustainable earth bag technology, which are bags filled with the soil from the site of the construc-

tion. There are multiple reasons that this idea was chosen: one, this type of building is very stable. It meets the building code standards for California and can withstand an earthquake of up to 7 on the Richter scale. Secondly, it is a very green and eco-friendly technology, as it does not need wood from fallen trees, there is no heavy machinery needed to build the school. It also keeps the interior of the building cool naturally. Another reason this type of building was chosen was because it uses tools of war, like sand bags and barbed wire, to build something that can help reconstruct their nation.

Here in Glastonbury, Patti Cole, a member of St. Luke's and close friends with Adama, got GHS interested in this opportunity to help others in need. There are many organizations around town that also

helped to raise money for Adama's Dream, including a poetry slam at BackBeat City and a Low-Strung Cello Concert. Gideon Wells School and Hopewell Elementary School are organizing projects related to reading for fundraisers, and Smith Middle School teachers donated \$100 from their dress-down day.

There was also a fundraiser here at GHS, stationed in the lunchroom. It functioned as a Penny Wars, asking each of the grades to donate pennies into their own bucket and adding silver coins and bills to others'. If a student donated at least a dollar, then they received a green wristband that said 'Adama's Dream' on them.

Besides donating money in the GHS cafeteria, contributions can be given online at www.yours-parechange.org or sent as checks made out to *Shine on Sierra Le-*

one to Patti Cole, 109 Little Acres Road, Glastonbury, CT, 06033, with Adama on the memo line.

After the fundraiser is completed, the money earned will be sent to *Shine on Sierra Leone*, who in turn will send four consultants to Kamathudugu to start the construction of the school. They will teach the villagers to build using the sand bags, a skill that they will be able to keep for life. The laborers from the village will also receive a daily wage for their work. Other parts in Sierra Leone that have used this type of technology have turned the hole from the construction into a fishery program.

Adama wishes to visit her village when the construction is finished and film the celebration. She and her family are overjoyed by the numerous people who have helped her dream to come true.

Ag science teacher Harvey wins state award

Article by Madison Lipman

The aroma of freshly cut flowers and plants fills the air as the people file into the room to watch the demonstration. People are smiling and congratulating her as she walks in to find an empty seat. She opens her cell phone and reads the e-mail that just came through. It still hasn't sunk in yet. People that she doesn't even know have heard the news and are praising her on a job well done. Settling into a seat to watch the workshop, she realizes the opportunities that this award will offer, and the reality of winning sinks in. Reading and re-reading the e-mail, she smiles to herself. She has won.

During this past summer, Dolie Harvey, an agriculture teacher of five years at Glastonbury High School, received the "Teacher's Turn the Key" award from the National Association of Agriculture Educators (NAAE).

The award will give Harvey the means to travel to Nashville Tennessee on November 17-21st to attend the NAAE Convention. The

scholarship money won with the award will pay for all of the costs of the trip; including air-fare, hotel and meals. Harvey believes that the conference will provide many learning experiences. "The award will be very beneficial after the National Conference. Being able to view the workshops and incorporate different techniques into my teaching will be very valuable."

Harvey was nominated for this award by Jennifer Elman, a fellow co-worker, who also teaches agriculture at Glastonbury High. Ms. Elman said "I first heard about the award through our Connecticut Association of Agriculture Educators. Having worked with Ms. Harvey at Glastonbury High School I saw the various qualities of a young teacher that she exemplifies. She is a very creative teacher that strives to help her students to understand agriscience on a daily basis. She has wonderful energy and creativity and has great ideas that have strengthened our department." Elman also went on to say, "Ms. Harvey has been teaching at GHS for 5 years. In this time she has devel-

oped herself as a teacher and also as a community member by participating in CT Agriculture in the Classroom projects and other community agriculture projects."

Harvey said, "I found out about winning the award at the Washington Leadership Conference. People I didn't even know were congratulating me! They [work colleagues] were very excited, especially Ms. Elman."

According to Harvey, ten people in Connecticut sent in applications for this award. This year, due to an open place, one other person from Connecticut was selected at random to receive the scholarship in order to also attend the NAAE Convention. However, during normal circumstances, only one teacher per state is selected for the scholarship.

According to the NAAE, the "Teachers Turn the Key" award is received by teachers in their second to fourth year of teaching agriculture. It was created as a "special project of the National FFA Foundation" to allow for newer agriculture teachers to be inspired to continue

in their learning and teaching.

An application is also to be submitted with the recommendation, along with evidence of teaching efforts, and two recommendation letters.

"The application was a long process. I had to write a five page essay on my teaching philosophy, interesting things in my classes, my FFA participation, the Marketing I do, and my professional growth. It was very hard to fit it all in!"

Matthew Dunbar, Glastonbury High Principal, recognized Harvey's winning of the award during a recent staff meeting at the Glastonbury High School. Dunbar said, "She is really passionate about teaching, and is committed to doing the best not only in her classroom, but also in FFA and Agricultural Science."

According to Harvey, this award will also be mentioned in the *Glastonbury Citizen*, the *Hartford Courant* and in a story by UCONN.

Harvey has been teaching at Glastonbury High School for five years now. She teaches many different classes, including Floral Design, Landscape Design and Botany.

"Throughout the day I teach about eighty students," she says. Danielle Warner, a student of Glastonbury High School, said, "She is a great teacher, and a kind person. I have her as an FFA advisor, and she is very committed to helping us all [FFA students] with any problems we many have."

Harvey attended UCONN during her college years, and had been planning on becoming a photographer, when according to Harvey, UCONN heard about a teacher at Glastonbury High School going on maternity leave for two or three months. "I said yes to the job, and the teacher ended up being put on bed rest for the whole year. So I started to take grad. school classes part time to receive my masters in education, while I was teaching full time. It was a weird way to get to teaching, but I loved it so much, that I knew this is what I wanted to do."

Harvey is looking forward to traveling to the NAAE Convention this coming month, and hopes to put all that she learns into good practice during her time at GHS.

Glastonbury High School concert choir goes formal

Article by Kristen Ambrose

The sound of high D's and low A's resonate through the auditorium. A white baton waves relentlessly in the air as many pairs of eyes carefully watch its every move. A typical performance for Glastonbury High School's concert choir has just begun, with one exception, the dress code.

Every Kristin Chenoweth and Kelly Clarkson of Glastonbury High School will now be seen standing on risers in matching, formal, black dresses.

As an exciting addition to the school year, Glastonbury High School's choir program took steps to professionalize the look of its performance groups.

In October, Dr. Ethan Nash, the school's choir teacher, okayed the purchase of formal, black dresses for all female concert choir members. Dr. Nash has been planning the purchase of the formal wear for a few years now. "It was originally Ms. Davis, the former chorus teach-

er's idea", said Dr. Nash. "She had been thinking about it, but it didn't seem like a good idea because she was leaving the High School at the time."

Since Dr. Nash's arrival in 2007, he has always considered purchasing the dresses. Most of the other high schools around the state have them, so it seems only logical for GHS, one of the state's best public schools, to do so as well. Also, as the choir improves every year, the likelihood of them entering a school competition requiring a dress code is greater.

The black formal wear costs \$56.00 per student, a price many girls are not happy with. Nash assured that "we have given assistance to those whom this is a financial concern." The girls are also given the opportunity to sell their dresses back to incoming concert choir members. They hope to continue this system in years to come.

It seems as if the girls will get good use out of these dresses. The dresses were first worn by Concert

Choir at St. Joseph's Cathedral on October 11. They were part of a performance called "Sing for the City", a performance that featured choirs from the Hartt School of Music and Simsbury High School as well as GHS.

The formal wear will also be worn at all major concerts for Concert Choir, except for the famous Pops Concert in June, where the ever-so-popular Hawaiian garb comes out. As for Madrigals, the school's elite afterschool choir group, Dr. Nash has not yet decided what piece of clothing will be worn to distinguish them from the rest of the choir.

What about the boys? Every year, the boys in concert choir have worn black tuxedos, and things will not be changing this year. The boys are very happy about the girls' new dress code. "I think it's good that the girls dress more appropriately and that they all match", says Matt Roser, a member of concert choir. Another member, Brent Lorraine, has a different opinion. "It's nice

that they all match now, but I think different dresses should have been chosen. They're just all black with no shape to them."

Brent Lorraine's opinion is a popular one among the girls. When Dr. Nash called a meeting with the section leaders of Concert Choir back in August, they weren't exactly all on board. "Some were fine with the new dresses, but as expected, some were less receptive," recalls Nash.

Luckily for the girls, they were able to play a big part in choosing the dresses. After careful decision, Dr. Nash and Patricia Lignelli, Glastonbury's Director of Music, chose three samples for the girls to choose from. Some of the girls even got to model the dresses for each other! After the fashion show, the choir girls rated each dress and chose the design during class. The chosen dress was a clear winner based on the vote of thirty-one girls.

Although the decision was very unpopular at the beginning, most girls have now come to terms

with the idea. "We realize that this choice will not please everyone, but feel that the positive elements of the uniform dresses outweigh the negative," says Lignelli.

Luckily for our the singers' wallets and our school's budget, Friends For Music, a Glastonbury parent organization devoted to helping the music programs, decided to step in. "The dresses all needed to be hemmed because they came unfinished and Friends For Music.....was generous enough to cover the cost of the tailoring." The tailor came into school and marked each dress for hemming so they could be ready for the first performance.

"Like any new change, there is a period of adjustment and we anticipate this. We hope that this is a positive step forward and that it will be well received," says Lignelli. It is clear that the GHS Concert Choir professionalism is moving in right direction to match their superb talent!

Charity Cabaret Performs For Cure

By Mary Vallo and Jocie Kluger
Arts Editor and Managing Editor
With reporting by Katelin Chow, Editor-In-Chief

"Believe in Tomorrow," a Charity Cabaret held February 1 and 2 at Wethersfield High School with performers from Glastonbury, Newington, and Hall High Schools, brought much hope and joy to those in attendance. All proceeds from the event benefited Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, a non-profit organization devoted to fighting the disease.

Despite some sound problems, the Cabaret was an overall success. The program consisted of an assortment of acts, and students from different towns were the Masters of Ceremony for other schools' performances. Glastonbury's acts were introduced by students from Wethersfield High. Katelin Chow, editor-in-chief of the Hawk's Eye, remarked, "Glastonbury High School clearly stole the show. It had really strong numbers with lots of people on stage that generally performed well." Also notable, the Cabaret ended with an impressive finale of "Bring on Tomorrow" from Fame, in which all members of the cast sang together on stage while wearing shirts that read "Broadway Cares." As commented Chow, "It really gave the audience a sense of community and a warm, fuzzy feeling."

Students who worked hard to present "Believe in Tomorrow" enjoyed the satisfaction of working for a worthy cause. Marissa Robinson, a senior from GHS who choreographed Hairspray's "You Can't Stop the Beat," remarked, "It was really amazing seeing it all come together...the number came out really well." Wethersfield High School seniors Leah Gregorio and Yoandi Interiors added that they "really liked how these towns could

come together and produce something for such a great cause."

According to their website, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS "provides grants to organizations providing assistance for healthcare to those individuals in the entertainment industry who are affected by HIV/AIDS and other critical health issues, and organizations nationwide and internationally that provide care and services to people living with HIV/AIDS." BC/EFA's first program, The Actors' Fund of America, supports five social service programs that help entertainers and performing artists. The second fund, the National Grants Program, provides funding to hundreds of "community-based AIDS Service organizations across the country." Additionally, BC/EFA donates funds to relief efforts such as those for the Southeast Asia tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. The charity further explains that, "unlike most other nonprofit, grant-making organizations, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS must raise every single dollar of our philanthropic budget every year in order to fulfill our mission." In 2006, the organization contributed \$8,035,864 through the Actors' Fund of America and the National Grants Program combined. Since the two grant programs' beginnings in 1987, they have raised a total of \$77,379,690.

Participants in this year's "Believe in Tomorrow" Charity Cabaret raised approximately \$2,000 for the 2008 BC/EFA funds. This money was raised through admission tickets, refreshment purchases, and an auction during intermission that sold everything from lesson packages at Jai Yoga to signed Broadway posters.

"Believe in Tomorrow" was a successful and meaningful tribute to a worldwide humanitarian effort.



By Sara Chuang
Participants of the Charity Cabaret sing the grand finale.

Two Fun Flicks Are Sure Entertainment

By Libby Leyden
Arts Editor

27 Dresses

"Always the bridesmaid, never the bride" is this movie's mantra. The main character, Jane (Katherine Heigl), is a hopeless romantic who always seems to be just a witness at all her friends' weddings. While longingly waiting for her own magic day to come, she is head over heels for her boss. He, unfortunately, has been dating Jane's very pretty younger sister Tess. Jane is then heartbroken to discover that her sister and boss are planning to get married- and they want her to plan the wedding! The story becomes even more complicated as the news reporter (James Marsden) following the wedding happens to discover that Jane has been a bridesmaid a staggering 27 times! He de-



cides to write a story about Jane's life, but in doing so he ends up falling for her. This movie is perfectly crafted, filled with twists and cute, funny moments. Heigl continues to sparkle on screen and makes a wonderful romantic-comedy lead. It will definitely give you 27 reasons to go see it again!

Juno

Juno (Ellen Page) is a quirky teen who has quirky sex with her quirky best guy friend Bleeker (Michael Cera) and now has the quirky situation of being pregnant with his child. Not so quirky is the "perfect" couple Juno has found to adopt the kid, Vanessa (Jennifer Garner) and Mark (Jason Bateman), a white-bread suburban duo suffering from a case of affluenza. When their cracks start to show, Juno's no-brainer decision becomes a lot more complicated. This movie is refreshing and Page leads this laugh-out-loud comedy. Nominated for an Academy Award, this film is a definite must-see. Filled with hilarious one-liners and teenage humor, this movie is similar to last year's "Knocked Up" but just a little bit tamer. It is one movie that you do not want to miss!

"Jewel" Disappoints; Not Quite The Gem Expected

By Mary Vallo
Arts Editor

I had high hopes for Jewel, a novel by Bret Lott. The New York Times Book Review praised it as "Sweeping and beautifully written... a parable for our age." It's on the GHS summer reading list, was an Oprah's Book Club selection, and was highly recommended by my mom, a fellow book-lover with very high standards and whom I trust even more than Oprah.

So why is Bret Lott's novel in my opinion not a literary jewel?

The plot and key themes in Jewel have a lot of potential. In the Mississippi countryside, Jewel Hilburn and her hus-

band, Leston, struggle to survive during the Depression. They were married as teenagers and five children soon followed. Despite their many hardships, the Hilburns lead a life that has an idyllic quality reminiscent of the old TV show The Waltons. Leston is manly and charming, managing to eek enough out of his meager paycheck to support a happy and healthy family. Jewel, the narrator, has spunk and wisdom that belies her circumstances, yet she accepts her life as it is, appreciating the simple gifts that God provides.

Her simple life changes, however, in 1944 when Jewel gives birth to her sixth child, Brenda Kay. Lott paves the way for Brenda Kay's arrival with over-the-top foreshadowing of hard times. So when

Brenda Kay is diagnosed with Down syndrome, the reader misses out on the more subtle journey of discovery and acceptance that a parent of a child with special needs experiences.

Faced with this challenging journey, Jewel becomes the heroine of the story. She vehemently resists pressure from physicians and her husband to send Brenda Kay to an institution and return to a "normal" life. Instead, Jewel scrimps and saves to move her family to Los Angeles, the home of an organization that will provide cutting-edge care and education for Brenda Kay.

During the journey from rural Mississippi to the California city and back again at the close of the book, the author

attempts to explore how relationships are changed by life-altering circumstances. Unfortunately, this potentially powerful and insightful novel was undermined by the author's fixation on making Jewel an unfailing heroine. She is depicted as a selflessly protective and dedicated mother and wife. Without any major faults, she is a one-dimensional character. By making Jewel the perfect heroine and her family's relationships and triumphs overly idealistic, Lott inadvertently trivializes the book's theme. The reader wants to identify with Jewel's life but, instead, is left observing it.

I was hoping that I would find a diamond when I opened the cover of Jewel. I'm disappointed to say that this diamond has many flaws.

Bad slogans for GHS clubs

Humor column by Jesse Rifkin

- **Math League:** You can count on us! Get it? Count?
- **India Club:** Where members of America Club are being outsourced.
- **Outdoors Club:** Our meetings are held indoors. Seriously.
- **Environmental Club:** The only thing we waste is your time.
- **Debate Club:** There are many reasons you should join. Our first contention is...
- **Students for the Increase of Peace:** Even we think Obama didn't deserve it.
- **Russian Club:** Offering room for advancement since 1989!
- **Spanish Club:** Es muy bueno para su resumé.
- **Book Group:** Now accepting illiterates.
- **School Store:** We don't need a bailout.
- **Safe Rides:** The best GHS club that meets until 1:00 A.M. on Saturday nights.
- **Chess Club:** Arch-enemy of Checkers Club.
- **National Honor Society:** So selective that only a third of people make it each year.

- **Computer Club:** 10101001011000100111000010001011011001100110010000
- **Student Council:** Representing the opinions of the student body, because the student body is too lazy to do it themselves.
- **No Boundaries For Friends:** Until the second meeting. Then we introduce the boundaries.
- **Jazz Band:** Voted 'Best GHS Club' by the Association of People Who Like Jazz.
- **YES (Young Educators Society):** Our original acronym was MAYBE.
- **Yearbook:** Join and you'll be most likely to succeed.
- **Hawk's Eye:** You're reading it right now, so it can't be that bad.
- **Literary Magazine:** The soft white pages of the literary magazine slowly turn in your hand, as you feel the paper up against your skin, pulsing with the rhythm of words and the chaotic storm of letters, the sentences bursting to get out of its entrapment of ink and into the minds and hearts of its readers, as the... [Editor's Note: We had to cut this short. It went on for pages.]

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